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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,108

09/08/2003

David Silva

227.020/10310955

7045

7590

04/07/2004

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/656,108

**Applicant(s)**

SILVA, DAVID

**Examiner**

Edwin A. León

**Art Unit**

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-19 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-19 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0104.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 9-15, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marzili (U.S. Patent No. 4,668,039). With regard to Claim 9, Marzili discloses an electrical connection cable (2) strain relief device comprising: a strain-relieving element (32, 50) disposed about a portion of at least one cable (2) having at least one electrical lead (3) extending out from the strain-relieving element (32, 50); at least one positioning pin (42) disposed to extend from the strain-relieving element (32, 50), the at least one position pin (42) having a longitudinal axis parallel to a longitudinal axis (Fig. 6) for the electrical lead (3) extending out from the strain-relieving element (32, 50), and the at least one positioning pin (42) having a non-circular cross section, and a contact partner (10) including at least one hole (25) disposed through a portion of the contact partner (10); wherein the at least one positioning pin (42) is disposed to be compression fit in the at least one hole (25) so that at least one electrical conductor (5) disposed on the contact partner (10) can be attached to the at least one electrical lead (3) for electrical connection. See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 10, Marzili discloses the strain-relieving element (32, 50) being made of plastic and is extension-coated on the at least one cable (2). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 11, Marzili discloses the strain-relieving element (32, 50) being cemented to the contact partner (10). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 12, Marzili discloses the at least one positioning pin (42) having an angular cross section (45). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 13, Marzili discloses the at least one positioning pin (42) having a triangular cross section (45). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 14, Marzili discloses the at least one positioning pin (42) including a pin body (46) and at least one pin clip (47) disposed to project from the pin body (46). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 15, Marzili discloses the at least one pin clip (46) having a triangular cross section (47). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 17, Marzili discloses an arm (40) disposed to extend from the strain-relieving element (32, 50), the arm (40) including recesses (between 35), each of the recesses (between 35) disposed and sized to retain a cable (2). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 18, Marzili discloses an arm (40) disposed to extend from the strain-relieving element (32, 50), the arm (40) including a second positioning pin (42) having a non-circular cross section and further having a longitudinal axis parallel to the longitudinal axis (Fig. 6) for the electrical lead (3) extending out from the strain-

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relieving element (32, 50); wherein the second positioning pin (42) is disposed to be compression fit in a second hole (25) disposed through a portion of the contact partner (10). See Figs. 1-6.

With regard to Claim 19, Marzili discloses the strain-relieving element (32, 50) being disposed about the at least one cable (2) to have a longitudinal axis of the cable (2) parallel to a longitudinal axis (Fig. 6) of the at least one electrical lead (3) extending out from the strain-relieving element (32, 50). See Figs. 1-6.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole (25) would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marzili (U.S. Patent No. 4,668,039) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Marzili discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the contact partner being a circuit board.

Applicant's admitted prior art discloses similar connectors having contact partner being a circuit board. See Page 2, Lines 6-11.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Marzili by having the contact

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partner being a circuit board as taught in Applicant's admitted prior art in order to make the device more versatile.

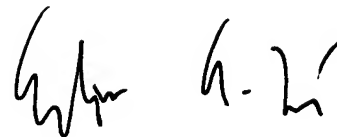
### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hudson, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,068,912), Bixer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,118,306), Bowen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,221), and Furman (U.S. Patent No. 4,715,827) disclose strain relief devices having positioning pins, contact partners and strain relief elements.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin A. Leon'.

Edwin A. Leon  
AU 2833

EAL  
April 3, 2004